

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03173 281200Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-10 PM-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-03 SCEM-02

COME-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 FMC-84 DRC-01 SCI-06 /089 W

----- 108791

R 281110Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 361

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSYNCW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, CE

SUBJ: UPDATE ON BUNKERING LIMITATIONS IN COLOMBO

REF A. STATE 242086 B. STATE 234084 C. COLOMBO 3071 (NOTAL)

1. TO DATE ALL VESSELS REQUESTING FUEL IN COLOMBO HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO REACH OTHER PORTS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. GSL'S PLANS TO RESERVE BUNKERING FACILITIES FOR SHIPS UPLOADING OR DOWNLOADING IN COLOMBO HAVE NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED. FUEL ALLOCATION PROCEDURES ARE HAPHAZARD AND SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND TO MARITIME AGENTS' INFORMAL TIES WITH STATE-OWNED CEYLON PETROLEUM CORP. NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, OF SYSTEMATIC DISCRIMINATION.

2. PETROP UM IMPORTS AND RESIDUAL STOCKS OF UNREFINED PETROLEUM APPEAR ADEQUATE FOR CURRENT ANTI-CIPATED NEEDS (SRI LANKA DEPENDS ON ITS ONE REFINERY

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 03173 281200Z

FOR VIRTUALLY ALL FUEL USES), BUT STOCKS OF REFINED

PETR LEUM HAVE DROPPED SHARPLY SINCE DEC 1 AND
ARE A MOST GONE. DOMESTIC REFINING CAPACITY OF
2000 TONS DAILY IS, HOWEVER, ONLY ONE-THIRD O**
CURR*NT INFLATED DE *NDS FOR FUEL, NOW7CONSISTING
MAINLY OF* NCREAS*D BUNKERING REQUIREMENTS. HIGH
GR*DE REFINED FUEL FOR BOTH SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IS
VERY SCARCE. CONCERN ABOUT INADEQUATE REFINERY
MAINTENANCE DURING CURRENT CRISIS IS BEING EXPRESSED
PRIVATELY BY GSL OFFICIALS AND PETROLEUM
ENGINEERSJJ UNLESS PRESSURE EASED, BREAKDOWNSIF
REFINING EQUIPMENT IS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE BEFORE MARCH.

3. BUNKERING FOR LONG VOYAGES (DURBAN, PERTH,0 35:)
NOW UNAVAILABLE, AND ALL VERBAL PLEDGES OF FUEL
SUPPLIES GIVEN BY GSL AUTHORITIES SUBJECT TO AMEND-
MENT AT ANY TIME. MARITIME INTERESTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO
ANTICIPATE OBTAINING MORE THAN 250 TONS PER SHIP
DURING PRESENT CRISIS.

BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 DEC 1973
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
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Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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